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www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge

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Additional Teams Complete QID Course Successfully on Last Day of Trials for the DARPA Grand Challenge

Qualifying Results and Starting Order for Saturday's Challenge To be Announced Friday Morning

Fontana, CA – Axion Racing, Digital Auto Drive (D.A.D.) and Team TerraMax completely traversed the Qualification, Inspection and Demonstration (QID) course for the first time Thursday, adding to the four other Teams who did so earlier in the week. Today concluded the four days of trials for the DARPA Grand Challenge QID at California Speedway in Fontana, CA. Judges will begin to review the data gathered from the 21 participating teams and announce the qualifiers and starting order for Saturday's DARPA Grand Challenge on Friday morning.

"This week has produced a major milestone in this history-making project," said DARPA Grand Challenge Program Manager Col. Jose Negron. "We have seen significant daily improvement in the teams being able to navigate the course of the QID. We are looking forward to having a capable and diverse field of vehicles in Saturday's pioneering Grand Challenge."

A total of 38 attempts were made Thursday by 16 teams. The results of the attempts of Thursday's trials break down as follows:

- Axion Racing, Team CalTech, Digital Auto Drive (D.A.D.), Team TerraMax and the Red Team all completed the course.
- Team CajunBot, Team CIMAR, The Golem Group, Palos Verdes High School Road Warriors, Rover Systems, SciAutonics I, Team ENSCO and Virginia Tech partially completed the course.
- AI Motorvators and Team LoGHIQ terminated within the starting chute area.
- Team CyberRider and Team Phantasm officially withdrew.

The judge's deliberation will include reviewing times and other data to determine the ability of the vehicles' systems to traverse the course safely in addition to being able to autonomously navigate and avoid obstacles.

SPECIAL MEDIA NOTES:

Grand Challenge Informational, Webcast and Photo Site: www.grandchallenge.org
This includes live tracking updates of the March 13th field test.

Satellite Feed

On Saturday, March 13, DARPA will provide same-day coverage via satellite of the Grand Challenge start and highlights at the following times:

- Live coverage of the start: 6:30 - 8:30 Pacific/9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Eastern
- Video news release: 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. Pacific/2:00 - 2:30 p.m. Eastern
- Coordinates: AMC 9, Ku, Transponder 03, 36 MHz, downlink frequency 11760.000, downlink polarity vertical

Mandatory Media Briefing

At 5 a.m., Saturday March 13th, a mandatory media coverage/access briefing will be held in the chapel at the Slash X Café in Barstow, Calif.

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